

IS HOPE REQUIRED FOR PLAYS TO WIN?

"The Writing on the Wall"
and "The Easiest Way"
Start Without It.

BUT W. J. HURLBUT
WILL BRIGHTEN HIS

Mr. Belasco to Stick by Tragedy.
"The Third Degree" Has
Plenty of Strength.

By ALLEN D. ALBERT, Jr.

The greatest line ever written by
any judgment is:
"Hope springs eternal in the human
breast."

If so, Messrs. William J. Hurlbut
and Eugene Walter seem rather to have fired
up a wrong mark. For "The Writing
on the Wall" and "The Easiest Way"
are both black with hopelessness.

A series of changes in the Hurlbut
play were suggested in the Times
review of Tuesday. Such indications are
at least only personal. Aside from the
general principles of art, the making of
a play, a picture, a novel, or any other
like product is wholly a personal thing.
But sometimes it happens, as in this
case, that those who have produced the
work of art are themselves doubtful. In
that event, suggested changes may help
—and have.

The chief demerit of "The Writing on
the Wall" was that it dismissed the au-
ditor without desire to see the play
again. "Get all wrought up 'second
time" exclaimed the typical Washing-
ton patron of the Columbia. "Not if I
know it." Now when one is strongly
impelled to stay away, he is doubly
so to advise his friends, and in the end
that means commercial failure.

A Change in Prospect.

It, however, there is hope in the play,
being wrought up does not seem so
hopeless. It is like a college race. You
are never worn out by it if you win.
But if you lose you are done up for a
day. The only opportunity for hope in
"The Writing on the Wall" had to do
with the little child. Without him, the
parents were on with their lives stolid-
ly. With him they had a mutual objec-
tive, a common hope, a binding interest
to keep them together and give them
heart.

The question was: Could the child
be kept alive without disturbing the
art merit of the drama? Of course, it
could. And it will be. Miss Netherland
and Mr. Hurlbut both desire it and two
or three performances pointed the way.
Here it is:

Schuyler will lose his life saving the
child of the woman he loves. The little
boy will be found badly burned and
with his arm broken. The mother,
searching with almost savage despera-
tion, will come upon him with the few
children of the tenement who were
saved. All this off the stage. Then
she will enter bearing her boy in her
arms. "Is he hurt?" is his arm
broken?" the father will ask, a new
sense of his fatherhood quickened with
him. "Sh!" the mother will answer,
as though it would not do to let the
little chap know. The doctors will take
him away to be treated upstairs. And
the play will go on as before.

Showing Down at the Belasco.

That simple change may well mean
the commercial success of "The Writing
on the Wall." No such change is
possible with Mr. Belasco and Miss
Starr. They have to do with a very dif-
ferent problem. They have made their
venture with full knowledge that it is
a play of that optimism which flows un-
checked from beneath the collar bones.
Against that lack, which is the waning
intensity of interest, a type now to the
stage, and some brilliant acting by
Miss Starr. Who will win? The critics
of New York, most of whom have seen
the play either in New Haven or in
Washington, think the House of Belas-
co.

After half the conventional stage
embodiment of the woman who has lost
her moral way, Miss Starr, assertive,
we have all seen her, behind the foot-
light and on the street, and we know
that she exists in life about a third as
often as the type portrayed by Miss
Starr. Here was a woman who had lost
the weaker attributes, who had it could
be to accept diamonds and pearls, and
then to earn or do without them. It is
a nearer truth than the more familiar
type, but not so easy to comprehend,
especially when opposed to as taking
an impersonation as that of Miss Starr.
Yet Miss Starr will win for her un-
derstanding. She is doing the extreme-
ly difficult thing: She is conforming her
acting to the naturalistic principles
which have made the Belasco stage-
setting a standard of measure. The day
is near when heroes will be as rare
on the stage as classic figures are now
rare in painting and sculpture. There
will be no artifice, but a constant re-
striction to the art of the movement which
in painting is represented by Whistler
and Sargent, in music by Wagner and
Richard Strauss, in sculpture by Rodin
and Maillol. When it comes, we shall
not forget that Miss Starr, in portray-
ing a pitiable weakness in Mr. Walter's
play, "The Easiest Way," achieved some-
thing like the high success which rewarded
her for her "Magdalen."

Strong? So Are Some Other Things.

"The Third Degree" solves the interest.
There will be no questioning that. It
is also beautifully played. Mr. Belasco
and Miss Starr, and Mr. Hurlbut, are all
more than competent, and Mr. Belasco
has a strange facility for
acting out into roles where he seems
naturally to fit.

But there may well be doubt if a play
is meritorious simply because it is
strong. As Mr. Walter once remark-
ed: "So is an onion, and a potato."
Strength in the drama can be of many
kinds. The best sort is that which dis-
regards solely the action of mind or
emotion, or even the action of a single
person. It is above the level of the saw-mill
and the oil-mill, the action of a single
person. It is that direction. When we come
to realize that we shall all be better crit-
ics. Meanwhile we go and shall con-
tinue to go in large numbers to see
"The Third Degree."

JACK THE GIANT KILLER

under the direction of

MISS HAWKE

for the benefit of the

CHILDREN'S COUNTRY HOME

Belasco Theatre, Friday Matinee.

January 22, at 3:30 P. M.

Patrons 50 cents and 10c box office

open January 29.

CLEVER COMEDIANS OFFSET STRONG DRAMATIC SUCCESS

Theaters Offer a Well Bal-
anced Program for
Coming Week.

FIELDS APPEARS
IN GOTHAM HIT

Wide Interest in Coming of "The
Thief"—Olcott Stars in
New Play

The engagement of Henri Bernstein's
play, "The Thief," at the New National
Theater this week may be considered
one of the dramatic events of an already
interesting season locally.

"The Thief" ran for ten months in
New York, and is said to have crowd-
ed the Lyceum Theater, in West Forty-
fifth street at every performance. There
are but eight characters in "The Thief,"
and throughout an entire act—the "big-
gest" act in the entire play—but two
persons occupy the stage, yet their bat-
tle of words, and the tremendous situa-
tions into which the dialogue leads them,
makes this act a startling bit of dra-
matic construction. The play is doubt-
less one of the most remarkable of re-
cent production, and is artistic beyond
question. It is what might be hailed
as a "great play."

BELASCO—Lew Fields in "The Girl
Behind the Counter."

The attraction at the Belasco Theater
this week will be Lew Fields and "The
Girl Behind the Counter," the sumptu-
ously mounted production which played
to admiring audiences for an entire
year at the Herald Square Theater,
New York.

The Girl Behind the Counter is a
London musical farce, Americanized to
a certain extent. Lew Fields assumes
the role of Henry Schiff, a newly-
made "millionaire," whose former
landlady, leads him by force of cir-
cumstances to assume various disguises,
such as a department store door waker,
a soda fountain attendant, a head
waiter, and a detective. In these char-
acters Mr. Fields is seen at his best.
His supporting company includes Miss
Connie Ediss, late of the London Gaiety
Company, who plays Mrs. Schiff, and
Lettie Faint, whose dancing and song,
"When You Steal a Kiss or Two" scores
a decided hit. Miss Pearl Lund, in the
role of "The Girl Behind the Counter,"
has two fetching songs, "The
Flower Song," and "Glow Worm." Miss
Daisy Dumont has scored a great hit
with her song, "I Want to Be Loved
Like a Leading Lady."

COLUMBIA—Chauncey Olcott in "The
Ragged Robin."

"Ragged Robin" is the title of the
new Irish play which will be presented
at the Columbia Theater, this week, by
Chauncey Olcott and a splendid sup-
porting company, under the direction of
Augustus Pitou.

The piece is said to have that rare
quality, a thoroughly Celtic atmosphere,
and is characteristically Irish in every
detail. The story is laid in the pleasant
valley of the Bandon, at a place called
Inishannon. "Ragged Robin" was
written by Rida Johnson Young in collab-
oration with Chauncey Olcott.
Mr. Pitou has spared neither labor nor
expense in mounting the piece, and has
engaged a cast of unusual excellence to
give life to the characters. Among his
players are Alina Belwin, Alice Farrell,
Lillian Hale, Mabel Bert, Mark Price,
Gertrude Edwards, Charles McCarthy,
George Brennan, and others of note.

There is an abundance of beautiful
music in the piece, not the least of
which are several songs composed by
the piece by Mr. Olcott. The incidental
music is by Frederick Knight Logan.

CHASE'S—"Joyland" and Walter C.
Kelley.

CHASE'S bill this week will include
"Joyland," with Clara Belle Jerome as
the prime mover of merriment, assisted
by William Seymour and the Eight
Dancing Toddlers; Walter C. Kelley,
Angela Dolores and company; Harry
Keane and Olive Briscoe; Johnston and
Harty; the Hughes Musical Trio; Londe
and Tilly; and the graphic and enter-
taining motion pictures of "The Cotton
Industry in the South."

"Joyland" is a musical comedy novel-
ty of the fantastic, melodious type so
popular in vaudeville. It was designed
and produced by Gus Schlick, formerly
in charge of the Klaw & Erlanger ex-
travaganza productions.

ACADEMY—"Sold Into Slavery."

There is probably no author of melo-
dramatic plays who more thoroughly
understands the wants of his audience
than Owen Davis, whose latest effort,
"Sold Into Slavery," is pre-eminently
one of the largest successes of the year.
The play has a plot which is filled
with incident that is most exciting,
and the love story interwoven is a deli-
cious one. Splendidly mounted and
excellently cast by Manager A. J. Spen-
cer, this play comes to the Academy to-
morrow evening with matinee on Tues-
day, Thursday, and Saturday.

LYCEUM—Sullivan and Kilrain.

John L. Sullivan and Jake Kilrain
will be a special feature with the Bri-
gadiers, at the New Lyceum Theater
this week, commencing tomorrow mat-
inee. The company this season presents
Shepard's camp's second edition of his
comedy, "The Wise Guy from Broadway."
Its two acts are said to be filled with
features, surprises, attractions, cli-
maxes, and sensational ideas.
In addition to a chorus of twenty-five
young women who can sing and dance,
it is claimed, in a manner befitting the
season, the production boasts of a
stunning original song hits, an elaborate
scenic and electrical invention and
other details essential to success.

GAYETY—"Night Owls."

The bill for the week commencing
tomorrow at the Gayety Theater will
be Charles Robinson's "Night Owls,"
a combination of up-to-date amuse-
ment and vaudeville. Two burlesques, entitled
"The Trimming Shop" and "The Mardi
Gras Mashers," both of which will be
costumed and acted in a proper man-
ner, are on the program.

NEW MASONIC AUDITORIUM

BURTON HOLMES

COLORED VIEWS TRAVELOGUES MOTION PICTURES

Tonight AT 8:30 Tomorrow AT 4:30

"NEW JAPAN TODAY"

RESERVED SEATS \$1.00, 75c, 50c, 25c. POPULAR PRICES AT THE BOX OFFICE



EFFIE SHANNON AND HERBERT KELCEY,
In "The Thief," at National This Week.

Julia Marlowe and "Old Homestead" Among Attractions for Next Week

A massive and historically correct
production of "The Goddess of Reason,"
a poetic drama of the French revolu-
tion, by Mary Johnston, has been pre-
pared by the Messrs. Shubert for this
season's tour of Miss Julia Marlowe.
Many months were spent by artists
and collectors under the personal direc-
tion of Miss Julia Marlowe in securing
historic effects, and it is safe to assume
that no production of recent years has
called for such assiduous devotion to
detail as has "The Goddess of Reason,"
in which the famous actress, who will
be seen next week at the Belasco Theater,
Miss Marlowe has in the role of Yvette
a character which gives limitless pos-
sibilities to her art, and she should
achieve new and greater laurels than
any which have come to her in recent
years.

COLUMBIA—"The Old Homestead."

Denham Thompson's charming drama
of New England rusticity will be the
attraction at the Columbia the week
commencing January 25.

For the coming engagement in Wash-
ington "The Old Homestead" will be
presented with all the beautiful scenic
equipment for which the play is re-
nowned. In the cast will be most of the
old favorites, among them being William
Lawrence, who plays Uncle Josh;
Charles H. Clarke, who has played
Seth Perkins from time immemorial;
Fred Clay, the famous actress, who
plays Maggie Breyer; Laura Bradford,
Anita Fowler, and Margaret Bonstead.
The famous quartet of farm hands is
still the musical feature of the
production.

NATIONAL—"The Red Mill."

"The Red Mill" came to Washington
last season, completely won the city,
broke all records for attendance at the
New National Theater for the season,
and kept boys and girls whistling its
merry tunes for weeks and weeks and
longer. It returns next week with
Montgomery and Stone, Ethel Johnson,
Florence Quinn, David L. Don, and
others of the original knickerbocker
Theater production.

One or two features have been added
to the already big ensemble of novelties
and surprises, notably the "Futch Hat-
Dance," executed by a chorus of
fifty tots just about big enough to crawl
through the eye of a needle.

CHASE'S—"Waterloo" and Vaudeville.

CHASE'S next week will offer an in-
viting assemblage of attractions head-
ed by the great American character
star, William H. Thompson, and asso-
ciate players, in a performance of Sir
Henry Irving's greatest unadorned cur-
tains production.

NEW ACADEMY

Mats. Tues., Thurs., and Sat.
The Greatest Play of Modern
Times

**SOLD INTO
SLAVERY**

A Play for Everybody
Original N. Y. Cast and Production
TONIGHT—GRAND CONCERT
Unusual Program and
LIFE MOTION PICTURES

NEW NATIONAL THEATRE

PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA

MUSICIANS
CARL POHLIG, Conductor,
Fourth Concert, Tuesday Afternoon,
January 26, at 4:30

ALVIN SCHROEDER, Violoncello.

Wagner—Overture, "Polaris."
Beethoven—"Intermezzo Gdodanaga."
Tchaikovsky—Variations on a Russian
Theme, for Violoncello and Orchestra.
Chopin—"Impressions d'Etude."
Tchaikovsky—"The Swan Lake."
Tickets at ART SMITH'S, 101 P
ST. NW. 1017-24

PALACE ROLLER RINK

Roll and Skate. Admission and Skates, 25c.
Rolls, 5c.

RUSSIAN ORCHESTRA AND GREET PLAYERS

Symphony Concerts Will
Supplement Shakespearian
Performance at Belasco.

The occasion of the Mendelssohn Cen-
tenary has been selected as a fitting oc-
casion for the presentation of an ade-
quate musical and dramatic performance
of "A Midsummer Night's Dream," with
the exquisite music with which it in-
spired Mendelssohn.

To this end the Russian Symphony
Orchestra, of New York, under the di-
rection of Modest Altschuler, and the
Ben Greet Players, under the direction
of Mr. Greet, are making a joint tour,
giving a complete stage performance of
this favorite Shakespearian comedy,
with Mendelssohn's musical accompani-
ment rendered by a complete symphony
orchestra. This combination perfor-
mance will be given at the Belasco The-
ater on Monday and Tuesday afternoons,
January 25 and 26, at 4 o'clock. On the
preceding Sunday evening, January 24,
the Russian Symphony Orchestra, will
render a grand orchestral concert, as-
sisted by capable soloists.

Sunday Concerts Booked
For Theater Tonight

In accordance with the announcement
made last Sunday the program an-
nounced for Simond's Popular Concert
at the Columbia Theater tonight is one
of unusual merit.

A special return engagement of Miss
Grace Key Miller, whose songs capti-
vated the audience several Sundays
ago, has been arranged. She will be
heard in an entirely new repertoire of
beautiful selections and will be assisted
by La Petite Alma, with novelty songs,
and James Flynn with illustrated me-
lodies.

The films for the motion picture por-
tion of the entertainment have been se-
lected with special reference to their
appropriateness for the occasion.

For the lovers of Sunday amusement
and entertainment the popular concert
at the Academy tonight offers a pleas-
ing program, consisting of moving pic-
tures in an extensive variety of sub-
jects of a comic, dramatic, and instruc-
tive nature.

Walter Sondheim will appear in new
comic songs.

ADELA VERNE HERE
IN PIANO RECITAL

Adela Verne, the beautiful young Eu-
ropean pianist, who, a year ago, con-
quered the far West with her mighty
handling of the piano, and who, during
the past few months, has been receiving
overtures throughout the great cities of
the East such as have never before
been accorded a woman performer, will
make her only appearance in Wash-
ington, at the Columbia Theater, Tues-
day afternoon, January 19, when she
will be supported by a strong company
of concert artists. The program ar-
ranged for this occasion, selected from
the most difficult works of the masters,
is such as will command the attention
of all lovers of music in this city.

BELASCO TOMORROW AND
WEEK
Mats. Wed. & Sat.
SPECIAL MATINEE WEDNESDAY
25c to \$1.50

Sam S. and Lee Shubert (Inc.) and Lew Fields, Props.
"LAUGH AND THE WORLD LAUGHS WITH YOU"
AND IF YOU CAN'T LAUGH WITH

LEW FIELDS
AND
THE GIRL BEHIND THE COUNTER

YOU'VE CERTAINLY GOT A GROUCH
Direct from the entire season at the Lew Fields Herald
Square Theater, N. Y., with one hundred persons.

THE MESSRS. SHUBERT ANNOUNCE

NEXT
WEEK
**JULIA
MARLOWE**

IN A NEW PLAY
THE GODDESS OF REASON

Mail Orders Accompanied by Draft Will Be Filled in the
Order Received.

NEXT SUNDAY NIGHT—SPECIAL POPULAR CONCERT
ALBERT SPALDING, Violinist; GRACE KAPLER CLARK, Soprano
RUSSIAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA OF NEW YORK
MODEST ALTSCHULER, Conductor.—Prices 50c to \$1.50.

Monday and Tuesday
Afternoons at 4 o'clock. **Ben Greet Players &**
Russian Symphony Orchestra

Present the
Shakespeare-Mendelssohn
"A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM"
ORCHESTRA AND COMPANY OF 100. Seats Thursday, 50c to \$2.00.

POPULAR
WITH
THE
PEOPLE

NEW
LYCEUM
COMMENCING TOMORROW MATINEE

SMOKE
IF
YOU
LIKE

THE BRIGADIERS

IN SHEPARD CAMP'S ORIGINAL SONG HIT SUCCESS
Mr. Wise From Broadway

AND THE FOLLOWING SPECIAL FEATURES:
JOHN L. SULLIVAN

THE CHAMPION OF ALL CHAMPIONS
In His Inimitable **JAKE KILRAIN**
Monologue, and

EACH PERFORMANCE WILL CONCLUDE WITH THE ORIGINAL
AND GENUINE
MOVING PICTURES OF THE
JAMES J. CORBETT—KID MCCOY FIGHT
FIRST TIME SHOW TO THE PUBLIC
NEXT WEEK—KENTUCKY BELLES

Columbia
Washington's
Leading Theatre

PRICES:
Orchestra, Bal. 75c & \$1
\$1.50 and \$1.00 Gallery, 50c
MATINEES Thurs. and Sat.
50c to \$1.50
Every seat in the Theater
Reserved by Coupon.

TOMORROW NIGHT AT 8:15 SHARP
AUGUSTUS PITOU PRESENTS
**CHAUNCEY
OLCOTT**

IN HIS NEW PLAY
RAGGED ROBIN

By Rida Johnson Young
in Collaboration
with Rita Olcott

Scenes Laid at
Inishannon,
Ireland, 1830

HEAR OLCOTT'S NEW SONGS
"The Eyes That Come From Ireland," "If You'll Remember Me,"
"Sweet Girl of My Dreams," "The Laugh With a Tear It Is"
and "I Used to Believe in the Fairies."

SEE The Good Little People—The Fairy Host—the Banshee—
The Will-o'-the-Wisp—and the Wealth of Beautiful Scenery,
including the Big Bog Scene.

NEXT WEEK
DENMAN THOMPSON'S
"THE OLD HOMESTEAD"

SEATS NOW ON SALE
COMING Jan. 19th, 4:30 P.M. **ADELA VERNE**

TONIGHT AT 8:15 O'CLOCK
SIMOND'S POPULAR CONCERTS
PRICE: TO ALL PARTS OF THE HOUSE, 25c

**WEEK BEGINNING
TOMORROW
NIGHT AT 8:15**

**NEW
NATIONAL**

**MATINEE
WEDNESDAY
AND
SATURDAY
AT 2:15**

Only theater in Washington offering exclusively American and foreign stars of first rank

**CHARLES FROHMAN
BERNSTEIN'S
TREMENDOUS PLAY**

THE THIEF

PRESENTS THE SENSATION OF 3 NATIONS
NEW YORK PRODUCTION
WITH KYRLE BELLEW

Mr. Frohman announces definitely that the remarkable company in
"THE THIEF," which includes EFFIE SHANNON and HERBERT KEL-
CEY, will be seen in Washington only during this engagement.

NEXT WEEK—MATINEE WED. AND SAT.—SEATS THURSDAY.

**MONTGOMERY
AND STONE**

In Charles Dillingham's Notable Production of the Musical Comedy Sensation of Two
Seasons

THE RED MILL
BY HENRY BLOSSOM AND VICTOR HERBERT

**CHASE'S
FOUR VAUDEVILLE**

The
largest, handsomest
and most popular theater
with weekly bills surpassing
the \$1.50 and \$2.00 attractions.
Daily Matinees, 25 cents only.
Evenings, 25, 50, and 75 cents

Fun Forecast—An Avalanche of
Amusing Attractions.

The Musical Novelty De Luxe
Mr. Gus Sol's
Surprising
Spectacle

"JOYLAND"
Containing the Charming
CLARA BELLE JEROME
Assisted by William Seymour,
and the Diminutively Lively
EIGHT JOYOUS JOYLANDERS.
As the Animated Cornstalks,
the Frolicking Frogs, Etc. Etc.

Johnston and Harty,
Smile-making Singing Comedians

An Absolutely Amazing Comedy
ANGELA DOLORES & CO.
Causing a Furor of Laughter
With "CUPID AT HOME"

THE HUGHES MUSICAL TRIO,
Versatile Instrumental Virtuosi.

A Humorous Hit
Henry Keane & Olive Briscoe,
in "A Trio Marriage"

Londe and Tilly,
An English Music Hall Novelties

ADDED ATTRACTION,
Oyes, Oyes,
Oyes, Oyes,
Come Into Court,
WALTER C. KELLY,
Appearing at His Annual Fall
Fest With a New Docket of
Funny "Undesirables" for
His Reform
"THE VIRGINIA JUDGE."

The American Vitagraph,
"The South's Cotton Industry."

NEXT WEEK—WM. H.
THOMPSON, IN "SIR HENRY
REV. N. J. P.
"AWAKE AT THE SWITCH"
BANNETT'S LOWERY, ETC.
BUY SEATS TOMORROW.

GAYETY THEATRE
9th STREET, NEAR F
Week Commencing Monday, Jan.
18. Matinee Every Day.
LOOK WHO'S COMING:
America's Famous
Character Comedian,
Charles Robinson
And His Big Musical Extravaganza.

Night Owls

Introducing
Charles Robinson
Devlin & Williams
Harry Seebach
Lawrence & Edwards
Quigg Nickerson
Jeanette Young and Charles
Next Week—Wm. A. Clarke's
Jersey Lilies Extravaganza Co.

GRAND CONCERT TONIGHT!
Shepard's Gal., 10c. Hellmuth
Pictures Bal., 15c. and
Orch. 25c. Greenburg
Leonard Chick, illus. Songs

MAJESTIC THEATRE

Mat. Daily	THIS WEEK
2:30	Kittie Duo Musical Act
4:30	Juliet Wood Comedienne
	Moosey Bros. Perch and Raley
	Travelogue Italy
	Showing Localities of the Recent Earthquake.
	Our Navy Showing Life on Board a Man-of-War
	Cameraphone Talking Pictures, Includ- ing Basile Wynn
Evenings 7:30 10:30	
Sunday 4-11	Any 10c Seat

57th ANNUAL
SOUTHERN BALL
Given by the
Southern Relief Society
Benefit of destitute Southern Poor in District
of Columbia at the New Willard,
MONDAY, JANUARY 17th
Tickets (including supper), \$2.00
Tickets on sale at the New Willard and T.
J. 1212, 1214, 1216

TIMES WANT ADS

BRING RESULTS,

ARTHUR SMITH'S.

Jan. 12, 1933